July 18, 1967 S. S. CAPPELLI 3,331,513

SHOE BUTLER

Filed June 24, 1965

FIG. 1

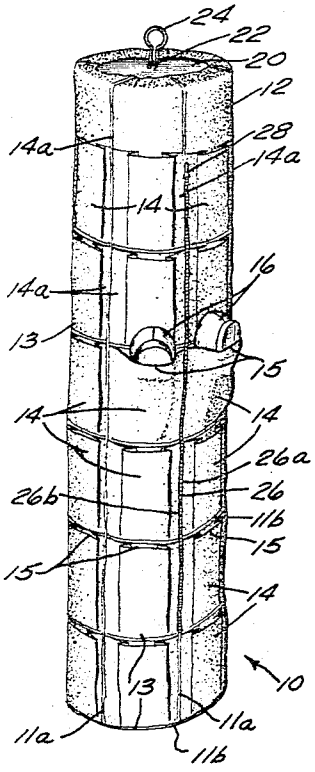


FIG. 3

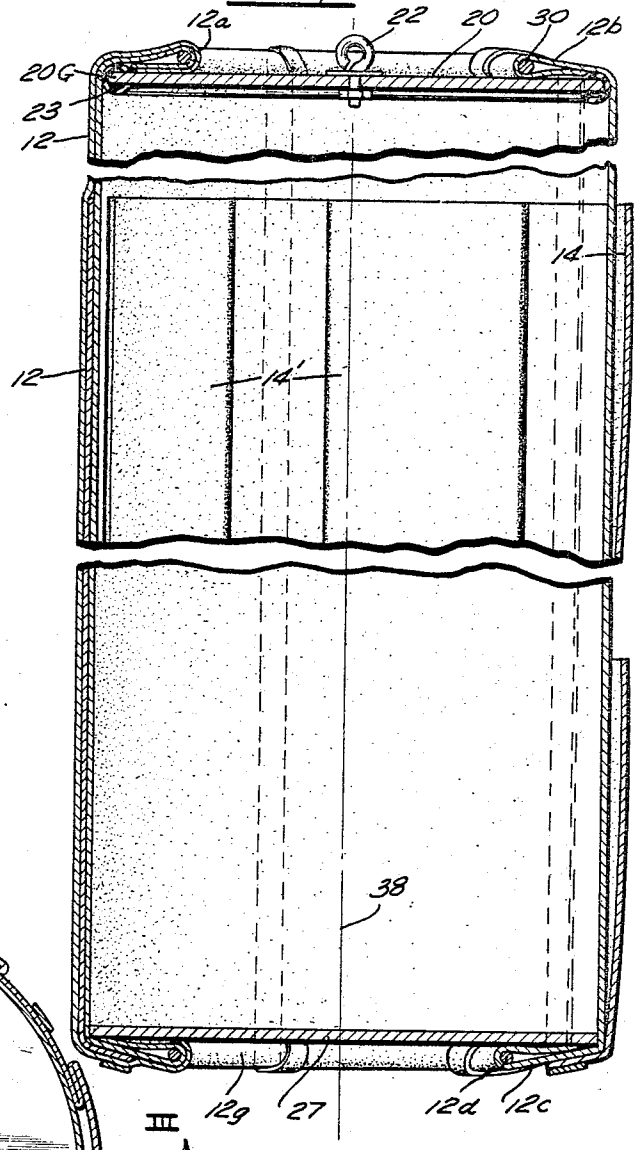
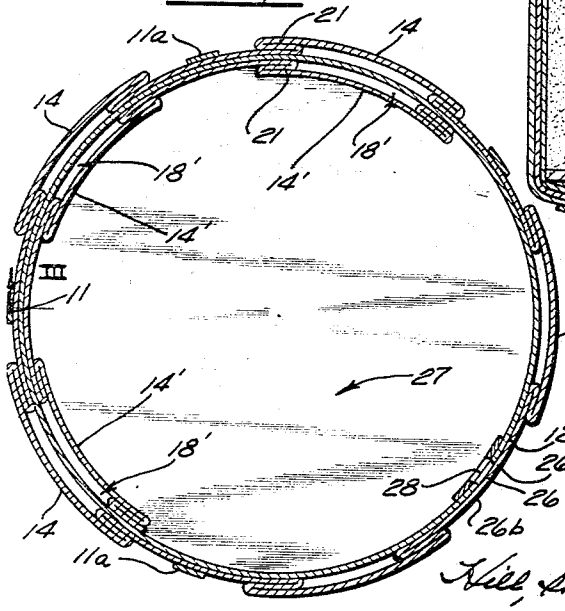


FIG. 2



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SHOE BUTLER

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This invention relates to an article holding device and more particularly to a device for storing shoes or a shoe butler.

Although the novel holding device of the invention easily lends itself to other applications, it will be described in connection with a preferred use as a home shoe butler. Conventional shoe butlers are devices for holding the shoes and slippers which are not being worn by an individual or family. They are customarily used in a bedroom closet.

It is the general object of this invention to provide a new and improved article holding device.

It is a more particular object of the invention to provide a new and improved article holding device of the shoe butler type.

It is an object of the invention to provide such a holding device of large capacity relative to the floor space and general area occupied.

It is another object of the invention to provide a shoe butler which is collapsible, easily stored and transported.

It is another object of the invention to provide a shoe butler of simplified and economical construction.

In achieving these objects a novel holding device constructed in accordance with the invention comprises a collapsible tubular member having a plurality of compartments for receiving shoes, the compartments being located on the outer and inner surfaces of the member.

The organization and manner of operation of the invention, together with further objects and advantages thereof may best be understood by reference to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in the several figures of which like reference numerals identify like elements, and in which an exemplification of the invention is illustrated.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a shoe butler constructed in accordance with the invention;

FIG. 2 is a sectional view of the shoe butler of FIG. 1 as seen along the line II—II in FIG. 1; and

FIG. 3 is an interior view, partly in section, of the shoe butler of FIGS. 1 and 2 as seen along the line III—III in FIG. 2.

Referring to FIG. 1 there depicted is a device for holding articles of the shoe butler type generally indicated by the numeral **10**. The shoe butler **10** comprises a tubular sheet or bag **12** constructed of a flexible material such as plastic cloth. It is preferably of washable cloth. The tubular bag **12** has a plurality of shoe-receiving pockets **14** for receiving footwear such as shoes **16**. The pockets **14** are constructed from a rectangular-shaped sheet of flexible material, preferably of the same material as the tubular bag **12**. The longitudinal edges **14***a* of the pocket are bonded by means of longitudinal seams **11***a*, to the bag **12**. The seams **11***a* are at a circumferential separation that is less than the width of the transverse lower edge **13** or upper edge **15**. The lower edge **13** is also bonded by transverse seams **11***b* to the bag **12**, preferably with pleatings **21** formed in the lower edge **13**. The upper edge **15** forms an opening or pocket **14** which freely allows articles to be inserted therein. The pockets **14** are of a size so as to receive freely the conventional shoes **16** while preferably displaying part of the shoe above the pocket opening **15**. The pockets **14** are also preferably affixed adjacent one another encircling the outer surface of the tubular bag **12** and extend one above the other for

approximately the longitudinal length of the bag **12**. Structural rigidity is provided for the shoe butler **10** by shape-defining and support means comprising a disc-shaped rigid planar member **20** of a circumference approximately equal to that of the tubular bag **12**. The member **20** has a freely rotatable hook **22** centrally affixed to and extending above the outer surface thereof. For ease of installation, a conventional keyhole clip **24** may be captivated by an eyelet **22**. Extending longitudinally along the tubular bag **12** between adjacent columns of the shoe pockets **14** there is provided a slit or opening **26** made up of two adjacent edges **26***a* and **26***b* which is preferably selectively sealable by means of a zipper **28**.

As is best shown in FIG. 2, the interior surface of the tubular bag **12** is also provided with a plurality of shoe-receiving pockets **14'** in a manner similar to the outside pockets **14** of the outer surface of the tubular bag **12**. For additional structural rigidity a second disc-shaped planar member **27** is provided at the other longitudinal end of the tubular bag **12**. As the space within the tubular bag **12** is limited, fewer columns of pockets **14'** are provided. The columns of pockets **14'** are provided opposite to the opening **26** so as to be readily seen from that opening when the zipper **28** is opened and the longitudinal opening edges **26***a* and **26***b* are spread apart. The interior pockets **14'** are formed in a similar manner to the exterior pockets **14** with an opening **18'**. For ease of construction, the pockets **14'** have common seams **11**, **13** as the pockets **14**. The excess transverse dimension of the edges **18**, **18'** is preferably taken up by folds or pleats **21** which may be impressed into the fabric of the pockets **14**, **14'**.

As may best be seen in FIG. 3, the bag **12** is supported by a rigidity-giving member **20** by means of a narrowing at its upper edge diameter. The freely rotating supporting member **22** is provided at the center point by a disc-shaped member **20** approximately along the central axis **38** of the tubular bag **12**.

As depicted in FIG. 3, the bottom-most inner surface above the member **27** of the tubular bag **12** does not have pockets **14'** provided. This provides easy access to receive larger articles, such as boots, which may rest against the upper inside surface of the member **27**.

The upper rigidity providing and supporting disc-shaped member **20** has a circular outer edge **20G**, and wear preventing means composed of a C-shaped (in cross-section) circular rubber member **23** affixed about the outer edge **20***e* with the ends of the C-shaped (cross-section) member abutting against the upper and lower planar surfaces of the member **20**.

The tubular bag **12** is affixed to the member **20** by means of a decreased circumeferential upper edge **12***a* which is formed by an open hem **12***b* and a draw cord **30**. The draw cord **30** is of a lesser length than the circumference of the support member **20** and allows the bag **12** to be supported thereby. Similar circumference decreasing provisions are provided at the opposite longitudinal end of the bag **12** for supporting the member **27**. These provisions comprise a hem **12***c* and a draw cord **12***d* for decreasing the circumference at the bag edge **12***g*.

In use the shoe butler **10** is suspended by a keyhole-shaped clip **24** so that it may rotate about the axis **38** and the shoes **18** are positioned within the pockets **14**, **14'** of the device. As the shoe butler is readily rotatable about the center axis, all of the shoes positioned within the bag **14** are readily brought into sight during the revolution of the device. The shoes within the tubular bag **12** within the shoe pockets **14'** are accessible by simply unzipping the zipper **28** exposing the openings **26** in spreading the two side edges of the openings **26**, **26***a* and **26***b* apart.

The interior position provides additional protection and may be used for the storage of the user's better shoes or least-used footwear. As is readily apparent from the above description, when the shoes **16** are not positioned within the pockets **14**, **14'**, the shoe butler **10** may be easily collapsed by advancing the end support rigidity-giving means **20** and **27** together.

The end supports may be easily removed through the slit **25** by releasing the draw cord **30** or by turning them edgewise and allowing the opening formed by the bag edges **12***a* and **12***g* to assume an oval shape with major diameter greater than the diameter of the members **20**, **27**. In this latter configuration, the members **20**, **27** may be easily removed. This removability is an added convenience for the user as it allows the shoe bag **12** to be laundered or cleaned without excessive bother.

It will be apparent that many modifications and variations may be effected without departing from the scope and the novel concepts of the present invention.

I claim as my invention:

1. An article holding device comprising:
a tubular-shaped bag having a plurality of article-receiving pockets positioned about its outer and inner surfaces and means for supporting said tubular bag for rotation, said tubular bag further having access means for selectively achieving access to said inner surface pockets.

2. An article holding device comprising:
a tubular-shaped bag having a plurality of article-receiving pockets positioned about its outer and inner surfaces, means for vertically supporting said tubular bag for rotation, said tubular bag further having access means comprising a longitudinal slit and zipper for selectively achieving access to said inner surface pocket.

3. An article holding device comprising:
a tubular-shaped bag having a plurality of article-receiving pockets positioned about its outer and inner surfaces and means for vertically supporting said bag for rotation, said means for supporting said bag comprising a generally disc-shaped planar member having a circumference approximately equal to the upper end circumference of said tubular bag affixed at said upper end of said tubular bag and having a centrally located pivotal support hook affixed thereto, said tubular bag further having access means comprising a longitudinal slit therein and a zipper affixed thereto for selectively achieving access to said inner surface pockets, and further having a shape defining a generally planar disc-shaped bottom member affixed at the bottom end of said tubular bag transverse to said bag and having a diameter approximately equal to the diameter of said tubular bag at the bottom of said bag.

4. An article holding device of the shoe butler type constructed in accordance with claim 3 and further characterized by having said tubular bag of a generally cylindrical shape, of fabric construction and said tubular bag being affixed to said disc-shaped member by means of a decreasing circumferential upper tubular edge overlying said disc-shaped support member.

5. A shoe butler comprising:
a tubular cloth bag having a plurality of shoe-receiving pockets positioned adjacent one another about the outer surface of said bag and further including a plurality of shoe-receiving pockets positioned adjacent one another about the inner surface of said bag and a disc-shaped structural rigidity-providing member at one end of said bag, said disc-shaped member having a rotatable support means affixed thereto at the center of said disc-shaped member for axially supporting said bag, said bag having means for decreasing the upper edge circumference of said tubular bag to a lesser circumference than said disc-shaped member for overlying said member about the periphery thereof and further including a lower disc-shaped planar member at the other end of the bag, and means for decreasing the lower edge circumference of said tubular bag to a lesser circumference than said lower disc-shaped member for underlying and supporting said lower member.

6. An article storing device of the shoe butler type comprising:
a disc-shaped planar upper support member having a circular outer edge;
a circular rubber restraining member having a C-shaped cross-section open to the center of the circular member and affixed about the outer edge of said disc-shaped member with open ends of said C-shaped cross-section abutting opposite planar surfaces of said member to provide a high friction non-abrasive covering for said edge;
an eye hook rotatably affixed to said support member at the center of said member to project normally from said member for providing the sole support for said device;
a tubular cloth bag having a right circular configuration and having a zippered longitudinal slit therein for providing access to the interior of said tubular bag, said bag having a circumference approximately equal to said disc-shaped upper support member, but having an upper edge circumference less than that of said member, said upper edge overlying the upper surface of said member and said bag being supported thereby, said bag further having a lower edge circumference approximately equal to said upper edge circumference;
a plurality of generally rectangular upwardly opening pockets for receiving footwear positioned about the outer surface of said bag, said pocket being positioned adjacent one another in rings about said bag and further being positioned above and below one another transversely along said bag in columns;
a plurality of generally rectangular upwardly opening pockets for receiving footwear positioned about the inner surface;
said inner and outer pockets being formed by a plurality of transverse and longitudinal seams at the junction of said pockets; and
a disc-shaped planar bottom member of a circumference approximately equal to the circumference of said tubular bag and said upper member positioned transversely in said bag and resting against and supported by the lower portion of said bag adjacent said lesser diameter lower edge of said bag.

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